Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

29 March 2007

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: March 26, 2007

Conditions Report

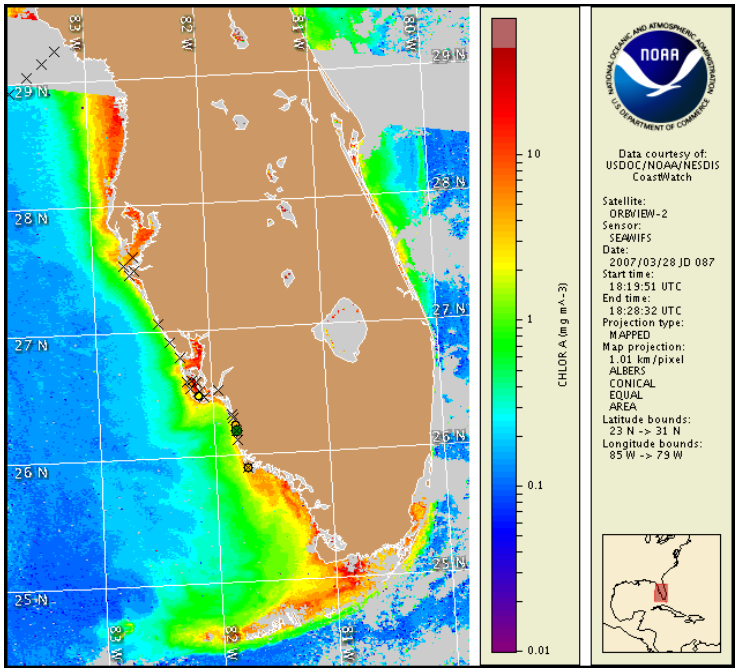
A harmful algal bloom has been identified in patches from southern Lee to central Collier County. Patchy low impacts are possible today in southern Lee County followed by patchy very low impacts Friday through Sunday. Patchy very low impacts are possible today through Sunday from northern to central Collier County. No other impacts are expected.

Analysis

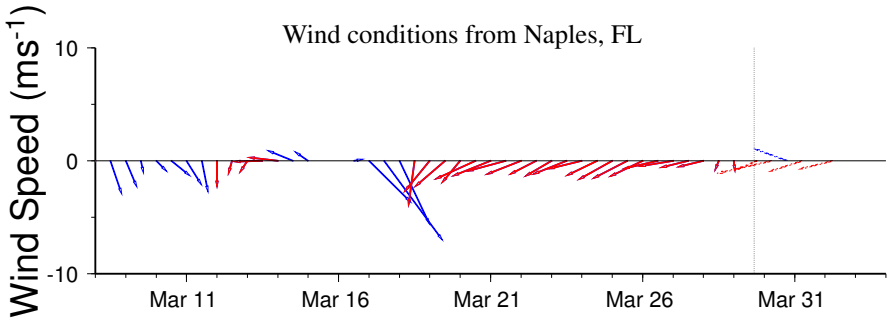
The harmful algal bloom persists from southern Lee County to central Collier County. Recent sampling results indicate a very low concentration at lower Pine Island Sound in Lee County (FWRI: 3/23). Satellite imagery illustrates an elevated patch of chlorophyll offshore of Cape Romano to 25°36'30"N, 81°31'7"W with concentrations generally around 3μg/L. An elevated band of chlorophyll extends offshore of Chokoloskee Bay, near the Collier/Monroe County border, to 25°29'51"N, 81°19'26"W with chlorophyll concentrations as high as 12μg/L. Continued sampling is recommended. Easterly winds throughout the weekend will minimize coastal impacts.

An elevated patch of chlorophyll remains offshore of the gulf side lower keys with a maximum chlorophyll greater than 10μg/L around 24°48'7"N, 81°17'38"W to the northeast of Big Pine Island. No recent samples are available for the Lower Keys. Continued sampling is recommended.

~Fenstermacher, Allen



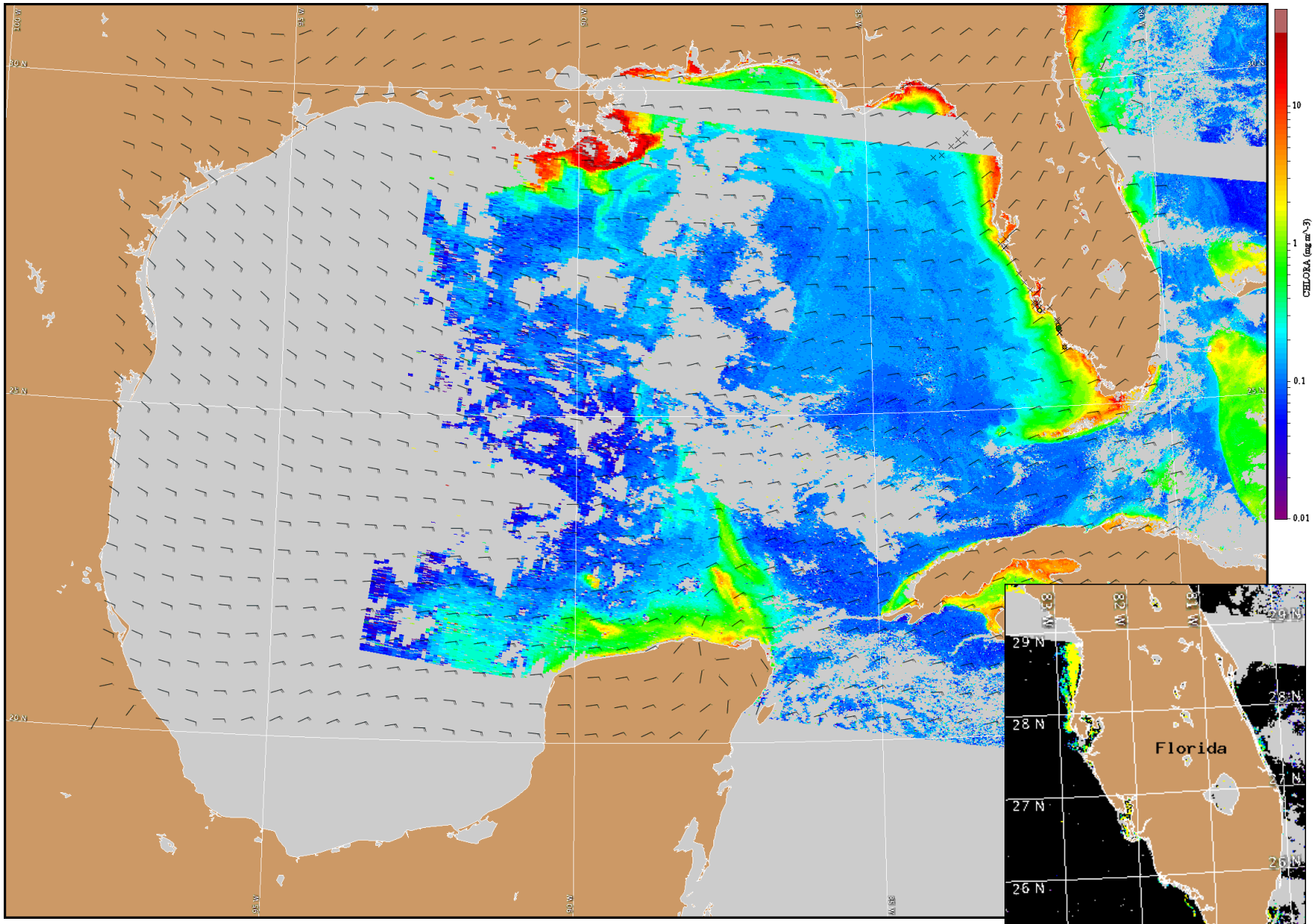
Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s).Cell concentration sampling data from March 19-27 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the the HABFS bulletin guide: http://www.csc.noaa/gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf



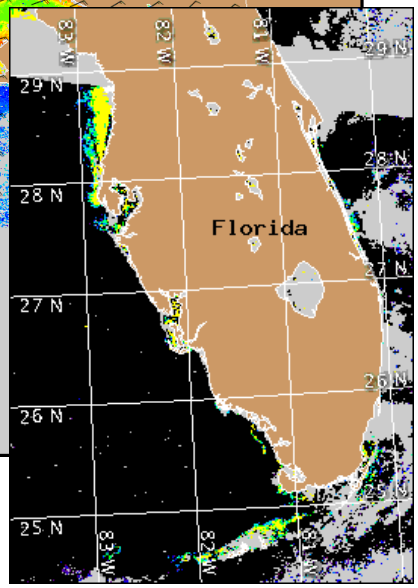
Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

SW Florida: Northeast to northwesterlies this afternoon (10 knots; 5 m/s). Easterlies on Friday through Saturday (5-15 knots; 3-8 m/s). Southeasterlies on Sunday followed by easterlies on Sunday night and Monday (5-15 knots; 3-8 m/s).

FL Keys: Easterlies today through Saturday (10-20 knots; 5-10 m/s). East to southeasterlies on Sunday and Monday (15 knots; 8 m/s).



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for March 30, 2007 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from March 19-27 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the the HABFS bulletin guide: http://www.csc.noaa/gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf



Verified HAB areas shown in red. Other bloom areas shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).

Wind conditions from Vaca Key, FL